Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World

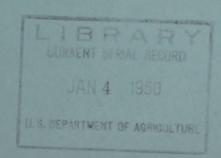


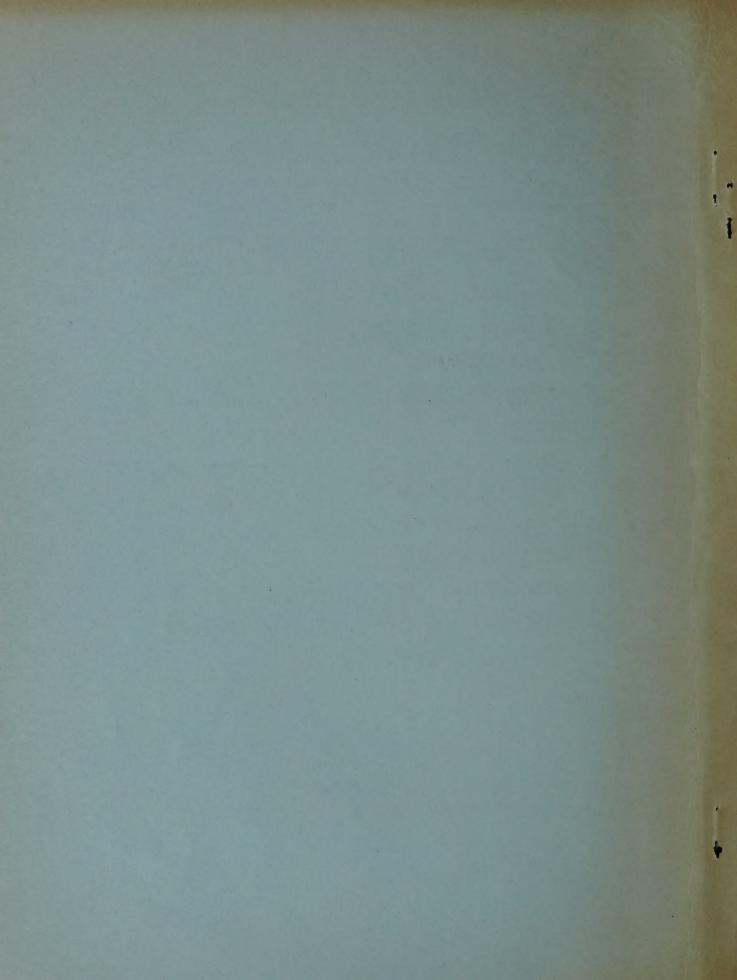
NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK 1949

NORTHEASTERN STATES

- *National Home Demonstration Week in 1949 was marked by several features which indicate that it is distinctly out of the "amateur class" and has established itself as a valuable means of:
 - 1. Acquainting the general public with the objectives, activities and accomplishments of Home Demonstration work.
 - 2. Highlighting achievements of families through Home Demonstration work and drawing attention to problems in rural living which demand attention.
 - 3. Recognizing volunteer local leaders whose services have contributed to the success of Home Demonstration work.
 - 4. Emphasizing the opportunities in Extension work to bring about better understanding of public problems--local, state, national and international.

*Prepared by Florence L. Hall, Extension Service, United States
Department of Agriculture and based on reports from States.





NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK 1949

NORTHEASTERN STATES

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 The 1949 State Reports of National Home Demonstration Week contain a wealth of ideas. It is hoped that the excerpts from them included in this summary may prove to be helpful as plans are developed for National Home Demonstration Week-1950.

THE TERM "OPEN HOUSE" APPEALS.

Women like to entertain, and having Home Demonstration units hold "Open House" across the nation during one week in the year appeals to their instinct for hospitality. Local groups enjoy this opportunity to invite their neighbors in and to show what they have done through Home Demonstration work.

The trend toward more <u>local events</u> continued, with local women assuming major responsibility for planning and carrying out the various features of observance in counties and communities.

In the Northeastern States alone there were 989 county and community meetings and special events held in observance of National Home Demonstration Week -- with a total attendance of 53,672 -- an increase of 80% ever attendance at similar events during National Home Demonstration Week in 1948.

Typical of many special events was the mock Television show at Delaware's State-wide meeting, where approximately sixty women put on twelve dramatic skits portraying the current Home Demonstration program in the State. These included:

Family Relationships (2 women discussing child guidance)
Making Slip Covers
Work Simplification
Handicraft
Health and Safety (Discussion of cancer detection clinic)
Trip to U.N. (Seats arranged like a bus - women discussed values of their trip.)

In 62 of Pennsylvania's 66 counties, county-wide Home Maker's Days were held and, in Clearfield County, a woman's club invited all women who had taken part in the Extension clothing program during the year to a tea. The State Home Demonstration Leader spoke on "National Home Demonstration Week" at this town-country get-together, which publicized Home Economics Extension work in the county.

A full page spread in the Syracuse, N. Y., Sunday, May 1, Herald American was headed "Syracuse Home Bureau Members Proudly Prepare Exhibits for Open House." This three day "Open House" was sponsored by the Syracuse City Home Bureau, which has more than 2,600 active members, and was held at their spacious headquarters. Their guestbook took on the appearance of a hotel register.

One of the features of their display was a bedroom completely furnished with re-finished antiques, braided rugs, spread and drapes made by Home Bureau members. Hostesses in charge of the clothing exhibits wore costumes which they had made in clothing classes, and home management leaders demonstrated housekeeping shortcuts and steps saved by efficient arrangement of kitchens.

Another feature drawing much interest was the samples of triple rich bread made with unbleached flour and with milk solids and soy flour added for extra nutrition, the recipe for which had been developed at Cornell University. This was baked and served in the kitchen by foods leaders.

In Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island "Open House" took the form of "teas" with special programs of great variety. Many of these were countywide and gave homemakers a chance to meet others outside of their own community. (The State Leader of Maine reports: "Women now look forward to the annual teas." Connecticut had fourteen teas during the week.) The newly formed Home Demonstration Councils in Rhode Island arranged for the special events which included seven luncheons, five teas and two dinners. One of these last featured turkey donated by a local farmer.

Berkely County, West Virginia, held a "Family Open House" on Friday evening during National Home Demonstration Week. Exhibits featured some 4-H activities as well as Home Demonstration work. Past Presidents of Clubs served refreshments assisted by 4-H girls in their green and white uniforms.

In Baltimore, Maryland, one of the large department stores contributed to the "Open House" idea by arranging a luncheon and fashion show for members of Homemaker's Clubs in the City. This store, and others, featured exhibits in honor of National Home Demonstration Week. Urban Home Demonstration work is about two years old in Baltimore.

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YOUNGER HOMEMAKERS

Efforts were made to capitalize on National Home Demonstration Week as a means of showing younger homemakers how Home Demonstration work could help them.

Sullivan County, New Hampshire, chose a young farm family, the Ervin Livingstons, to join the county's mythical Hall of Fame as the typical

"homemaking family" of the year. The County Advisory Council selects one family for this honor each year in observance of National Home Demonstration week. This young couple has been married six years, have two very young daughters, are putting Extension practices to work in the home and on the farm of the husband's parents, where they now live. They cooperate in Extension work, in church activities and community affairs. The newspaper publicity tells in detail about Mrs. Livingston's canning, her sewing, record keeping and other skills she has learned through the local Home Demonstration group, of which she is Secretary.

In a news release announcing Home Demonstration Week in West Virginia, the State Leader points out: "A renewed interest in young homemakers has been an outstanding part of the home demonstration program during the past year. Sixty farm women's clubs held study groups for young homemakers, 130 clubs report distribution among members and neighbors of books on family relationships, and scores of members "adopted" a young homemaker to whom lesson leaflets and other homemaking information were given. At the request of farm women leaders, this year's series of discussion leaflets includes three that are intended primarily for the mothers of young children. Topics are "The Child Learns to Work," "What the Child Sees and Hears" and "What Price Accidents?" Special recognition during National Home Demonstration Week will go to clubs that have brought into their membership large numbers of young homemakers, and to clubs that have sponsored meetings, demonstrations, study groups, or other activities of special interest to young mothers who feel they cannot be club members.

At the three day State Leadership Training Conference for Farm Women at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, one day featured Home Demonstration Week. This included exhibit-demonstration booths showing phases of Home Demonstration work of special interest to young homemakers and included short cuts in sewing, demonstration of breads and rolls, milk drinks and desserts, exhibits of books for children and books on international affairs. The evening program included a dramatization of a club meeting showing how a club of older women (and grandmothers) adjusts its program to meet needs and interests of the young homemaker.

Delaware used Home Demonstration week as an opportunity to make a survey of the needs of young homemakers and the type of help desired from the Extension Service. Home Demonstration Club members canvassed younger homemakers and their poll brought 328 requests. A summary of these requests follows:

Subject	ber Intere	sted
Child Feeding	84	
Making Clothing for Children	110	
Selection of Play Equipment	89	030
Building Happy Family Relationships	113	
Selecting and Purchasing Clothing		
for Children	99	
Storage of Clothing for Children	87	
Storage of Play Equipment	75	
Emotional Growth of Children	108	

As one result of this survey, a series of three leaflets is being prepared to be sent to a mailing list of young mothers: "Building Happy Family Relationships," "Selecting Toys for Children" and "Emotional Growth of Children."

Both Maine and Pennsylvania made arrangements for child care at meetings a part of their plans for Home Demonstration Week. At centers in Maine the women took turns caring for the younger children. Regular nursery school schedules for play, rest and lunch were worked out. The State Leader says: "We were able to put the nursery school idea before the public." Pennsylvania had 19 nursery care groups at Homemaker's Day programs during National Home Demonstration Week as against 6 for 1948—with ll of these having more than 10 children in a group. Lycoming County had fifty youngsters in charge of volunteer Junior League members. A marked increase in the number of young women present resulted from this arrangement. At other meetings, Senior Extension girls, 4-H Club members and mothers took care of the children.

The Georgetown, Delaware, Home Demonstration group held an open house for young homemakers at the Century Club with baby sitters furnished.

A new folder "Home Demonstration Program in New Hampshire" prepared for use during National Home Demonstration Week was sent to Community Chairmen for distribution to young homemakers and newcomers.

INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

Many Home Demonstration groups took the occasion of Home Demonstration Week to emphasize their interest in understanding people of other lands and in efforts toward World Peace.

Pennsylvania used as their theme for the week "How Big is Your World?" and featured international aspects at 25 of their county-wide Homemaker's Days. In Crawford County, homelife in 13 different countries was illustrated — a war bride from the Philippines wore her wedding dress, a Japanese girl was in native costume, a Gold Star mother wore a Dutch costume (her son had been killed in Holland.) In Beaver, Clearfield and Somerset Counties foreign brides, now-living in these areas, took part in panel discussions on such topics as "How Others Live."

"International Friendship" was the theme of the county-wide Achievement Day program in Chautauqua County, New York. War brides now living in the county described home life in the countries from which they came -- Australia, England and Germany.

West Virginia summarized the international emphasis in Home Demonstration work for the year preceding in a news release as follows:

"There were 241 women who have pen friends in England, Holland, Switzerland, Austria, Australia and Germany. Thirty-seven Clubs held International Day programs. Ninety-four Clubs made a study of some foreign country. One hundred fifteen Clubs made contact with 197 war brides, 125 foreign students and 169 neighbors in their communities from other lands."

"Homes Around the World" was the theme of the county-wide meeting in Mineral County, West Virginia. They drew on local talent for talks, dramatic sketches, exhibits and music portraying home life in India, Africa, Arabia, Austria, China, Ireland and Scotland. A different club was responsible for each number on the program, which closed with a conversation between a Swiss girl in native costume and an American girl bringing out differences and likenesses in the homes of the two countries.

In several club meetings in West Virginia during National Home Demonstration Week a collection was taken for the "Pennies for Friendship Fund" and reports were given on the status of the Foreign Student Fund -- money raised by Farm Women's Clubs throughout the State during the year to pay expenses of a young woman from Germany to study at the University of West Virginia for one year. She will take courses preparing her to work with rural people in her own country upon her return.

Plymouth County, Massachusetts, organized a train tour to visit United Nations at Lake Success, N. Y. Among 37 "tourists" were 10 high school boys and girls sponsored by various organizations such as churches, P.T.A., Kiwanis and Elks Clubs. This proved to be an interesting innovation—because when reports were given back home they reflected both youth and adult points of view. The trip aroused so much interest that there is some consideration of making it an annual event.

EXHIBITS

Exhibits have countless possibilities in carrying out the objectives of National Home Demonstration Week. One great advantage is that local committees can arrange them, and make the necessary contacts with local stores for show windows. There were more than 1,000 exhibits reported in the Northeastern region in observance of National Home Demonstration Week. In New York, the April 1949 issue of "The Graphic Extensioner" prepared by Visual Aids Service, Cornell, was keyed to National Home Demonstration Week with 15 pages of usable ideas. More than 400 exhibits during National Home Demonstration Week in that State served to give excellent publicity for the week's activities.

For instance, people in all parts of Seneca County, N. Y., had a chance to take part in or see at least one exhibit in store windows or in connection with the eight achievement days held in the county. All projects were well represented in the exhibits — foods, family life, citizenship, dress revue, slip covers, easier methods in housework, lamp shades and care of house plants.

The Home Demonstration Agent assisted in planning and on publicity. Otherwise, all work for the week's events was done under the supervision of the County Executive Committee.

One of several exhibits in a Community Hall in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, with the legend "How Big is Your World", was a display of letters from "Pen Friends" in other lands to local rural women.

Total mar

A New Hampshire store featured a window display of dresses made by Home Demonstration women. The Store Managers were impressed when people came in to inquire if those dresses could be purchased.

In metropolitan Providence, Rhode Island, Home Demonstration work is relatively new. Local committees distributed 50 large posters to stores. In a large window in a cooperative store, more than 50 articles were displayed illustrating every phase of Home Demonstration work.

TOURS

There were 46 tours in the Northeastern States as a feature of National Home Demonstration Week, with Maryland and West Virginia reporting nine each.

Among those in West Virginia was Wood County's Annual Home Beautification Tour. One of the highlights of the day was a visit to Pleasant Hill Church to see improvements just completed — new church pews, reconditioned floors, newly built pulpit, new doors, windows, stoves and lights. This was a community project in which the Farm Womens Clubs had cooperated. Another stop was made to see a modern brick bungalow recently built to replace an old log house. Here the Extension Landscape Specialist gave a shrubbery pruning demonstration.

Washington County, Maryland, homemakers, one hundred strong, spent one day at the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville to see and hear about the research work being carried on by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

In Massachusetts, Essex and Hampshire Counties arranged tours to see improved home and community kitchens. Twelve visits were scheduled in the Hampshire County tour and seven in Essex. Six of the visits were to see church kitchens, one to a new school lunch kitchen and one to a parsonage whose kitchen had been remodeled. The changes here were typical of those in other kitchens visited — old partitions removed to provide a dining center and child's play center in kitchen — with arrangements made for better lighting, convenient cupboards and attractive color schemes.

In another home, attention was called to a new "Dining and Fun Center" located where the range stood before changes, and the new "Utility Room" made from the old pantry — now providing space for washing machine, ironer, shower and hot water tank.

In Bradford County, Pennsylvania, a similar tour to improved homes had this variation — at a stop at a Community Hall, the Extension Nutrition Specialist spoke on "Milk — A Bargain in Calcium." Milk drinks were served. A news staff photographer accompanied the women on this tour. Result — a full page picture spread in the "Towarda Daily Review."

Washington County, Maine, had two tours - to a woolen mill, and a chocolate factory.

A New Hampshire County group arranged a tour to see six new homes in process of construction or just finished.

RECOGNITION OF LEADERS

As a means of carrying out one of the objectives of National Home Demonstration Week, "To recognize volunteer local leaders," many Home Demonstration agents sent a letter to county and community leaders entitled "An Orchid to You." Similar letters from other Home Demonstration agents echoed these ideas:

"Leaders are the backbone of Home Demonstration work."

"By unselfishly giving of your time and talent you have brought to other women information and new techniques which are making their tasks lighter and homes more pleasant."

Scores of counties honored their leaders at teas and special programs. Newspaper stories and radio talks told of their many accomplishments in efforts for better homes and communities. Some counties honored their club Presidents, and others, like Randolph in West Virginia, had a recognition ceremony for 24 homemakers who were 25 year members of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Waldo County, Maine, distributed a printed folder at their county-wide meeting with an appreciation of local leaders and a list of 52 names and addresses of outstanding leaders honored on that day.

IN THE NEWS AND ON THE RADIO

Much more extensive news coverage of National Home Demonstration Week was noted than in previous years, with a 25% increase over 1948 in total number of news stories, feature articles and editorials. Rotagravure sections pictured Home Demonstration work in such papers as "The Boston Sunday Dlobe," the Springfield, Mass., "Sunday Republican" and the "Buffalo Courier Express".

Exhibits were described in detail in many news columns, and names of leaders honored were listed. Letters from women were printed telling of their accomplishments in Home Demonstration work. Of the 60 Special Editions in county newspapers, West Virginia reported 17, Maryland 14, Vermont 10, Massachusetts 9, Pennsylvania 4 and Maine, New Hampshire and New York 2 each.

New Jersey handled their National Home Demonstration Week publicity from the State Extension Office by sending publicity releases to all 189 papers in the State with three fill-in stories, plus two pages of fillers sent home agents. Five broadcast briefs were sent to radio farm directors and to surrounding metropolitan radio stations.

Editorials were especially impressive. This is taken from a long editorial in the Newport, Vermont, "Daily Express": ".... In this county there are 28 Home Demonstration groups with nearly 700 members. No one can tell us that this number of women in the county, meeting often in community groups, does not improve their individual morale, make their social life more enjoyable, add to the community life and leave a mark toward better living all around. This influence broadened to a state and national basis is never to be discounted."

And in a special edition of the Pocahontas County Farm Journal (West Virginia) the following appeared:

"During these chaotic days, when the maintenance of those fundamental principles on which our country was founded are constantly in question, we can find reassurance and hope in the work being carried on by the womenfolk of our farms. In every part of this country, home demonstration clubwomen carry on the service which they have dedicated to the promotion of all those elements which enter into the creation and development of better conditions for the people living on our farms and in our rural districts "

"In promoting all those elements which enter into the fulfillment of their creed and the "Creation of Better Homes Today so as to make Better Citizens Tomorrow"—the women of the Farm Women's Clubs are making an inspiring contribution to our national welfare."

More than 300 State and local radio programs were featured during National Home Demonstration Week with 1,100 local women participating, an outstanding increase over 1948. Radio interviews between Home Demonstration agents and women were extremely popular with the radio stations, with the listeners and with the women taking part.

There is considerable evidence of the values of the nation-wide radio hookups, a regular feature of National Home Demonstration Week. These give local women an appreciation of belonging to a large nation-wide movement.

They identify themselves with the homemakers from distant States who report on changes in homes and communities resulting from Home Demonstration work. A kinship is established, because they feel that all Home Demonstration women are striving for the same goals as are they and their neighbors.

Local women took considerable pride in organizing "listening groups" for the top notch Cavalcade of America radio show -- a dramatic presentation of early home demonstration work in North Carolina based on the book "When We're Green We Grow." They especially liked hearing Mrs. Jane McKimmon, 81 year old author of the book, and first Home Demonstration Leader of North Carolina, speak at the close of the program.

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES

"Why I am a member of a Home Demonstration Club" was the roll call feature of several Vermont groups. The State Leader says, "This brings out valuable thinking and publicizes Home Demonstration work" - example - a community meeting where there were nine members and twenty-one guests."

The Greenville, Rhode Island, group responded to roll call with an exhibit of something each member had made during the year. There were 24 members and 14 guests.

Home Demonstration women in Rhode Island and Maine told the story of Home Demonstration work outside their own groups by dramatic skits and demonstrations at Grange and PTA meetings.

In Maryland, the State Home Demonstration Council offered \$10 as a prize to the County Home Demonstration Council doing the best job of observance of National Home Demonstration Week. This was awarded to Cecil County.

Delaware club members started the week Sunday, May 1, by attending church in club groups. The wide appeal of this program is evident from the report that 760 members from 38 clubs participated.

Mercer County, West Virginia, staged a half hour radio quiz program with several Home Demonstration Club members as a studio audience and the Home Demonstration agent serving as scorekeeper. The following questions are typical of those asked:

Mercer County Farm Women will have an International Day program on May 20. Can you tell us what nationality gave us each of these dishes?

Borsch Fruit Soppa Sauerkraut Chili Sweet-Sour Spareribs

Do you agree with this statement? "If some lime is good on the garden, more lime is better." Why?

Name 5 causes to which Mercer County Farm Womens Clubs have made cash contributions this year?

How can you be sure whether your home water supply is safe?

If you were on the coffee committee for a party of 100, how much coffee would you need to buy?

What are two diseases that are most commonly transmitted in milk that has not been properly handled and pasteurized?

What is the health slogan of West Virginia 4-H club members this year?

Does sugar affect the keeping quality of canned fruits?

Name at least 3 pieces of small equipment that make the canning job simpler?

THE FEDERAL EXTENSION OFFICE AND NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK

In addition to releasing the usual fact sheets giving uptodate background information on Home Demonstration work and describing national plans for the weeks observance, an innovation was tried in 1949. A handbook for the observance of National Home Demonstration Week was prepared in sufficient quantity for each Home Demonstration agent in the United States to have a copy. The handbook contained 46 pages of suggestions—topics for radio talks, for news stories, ideas for educational exhibits and copies of materials which States and Counties have used successfully, such as playlets and recognition ceremonies.

Several radio broadcasts on National networks and one television show were arranged. The broadcast on the American Farmer Program, ABC, featured interviews with a farmer and his wife from Illinois, and another farmer-wife team from Delaware.

The May issue of the Extension Service Review had special articles on Home Demonstration work with a cover page picturing a home demonstration agent. One feature of this issue, which has caused considerable favorable comment, was a two page spread with pictures of six representative State Extension Directors who took the occasion of Home Demonstration Week to speak on home demonstration work, giving their views on its scope, progress and possibilities.

The monthly luncheon of Mu Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi, featured Home Demonstration Week's theme "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World" on posters and place cards, and colorful bouquets decorating each table gave a festive appearance to the dining room. Speakers and topics were:

What Makes Home Demonstration Work Grow - Mrs. Jane S. McKimmon, First State Home Demonstration Agent in North Carolina.

Today's Homes as They Look to an Editor - Gertrude Dieken, Editor, "The Farmer's Wife," Farm Journal.

Among the special guests at the luncheon were several Extension Directors and State Home Demonstration Leaders who were in Washington attending the meeting of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy, and the President and Vice President of the National Home Demonstration Agents' Association.

FOLLOW-UP

Two items stand out in all plans for follow-up:

- 1. More emphasis on newspaper publicity and radio programs.
- 2. Attention to the needs of younger homemakers.

Some specific ideas mentioned along these lines were:

"Continue publicity of this kind throughout the year."
"More newspaper articles written by Home Demonstration women themselves."

"More publicity on program activities."

"Develop plans to get greater cooperation from local papers."

"Success stories from time to time."

"Continue articles on Home Demonstration work in city papers."

. "Start a regular radio program on Home Demonstration work."
"Give extra emphasis to new homemakers and young mothers."

"Arrange for meetings of young homemakers reached during
National Home Demonstration Week."

"Hold community meetings to which young homemakers are especially invited."

"Send a series of information letters to young mothers."

Other follow-up activities listed were:

"Increase mailing lists for releases and bulletins."

"Sponsor occasional community meetings of general interest, to which the public is invited."

"Encourage more exhibits at the Fair."

"Have a Fashion Show at County Field Day Program."

"Organize new groups in areas where there are none."

"Hold a county-wide forum on public health facilities."

"Encourage more cooperation with other organizations."

"Sponsor special county-wide meeting to make plans to work for a Bookmobile."

VALUES RESULTING FROM NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK

There is pretty general agreement by State Home Demonstration Leaders in Northeastern States that National Home Demonstration Week serves to accomplish a number of worthy objectives. Among these are that it acquaints the public with the broad scope of the program. As one Home Demonstration Agent says, "National Home Demonstration Week gives evidence that farm women do more than cook big chicken dinners."

Following are some short quotations taken directly from State and County reports:

"Gives a better understanding of the Extension program--nation-wide."
"Women realize that they are part of a huge national program."

"Helps unify the county extension program."

"Helps homemakers to appreciate the importance of Extension work."
"Reports of homelife from many countries foster the feeling that
all people are our neighbors."

"Acquaints the general public with the educational aspects of Home Demonstration work."

"Helps to raise the standard of work because only products of high quality are shown in exhibits."

"Arouses pride of members in Home Demonstration work."

"Brought about concerted effort in doing something for the community."

"Non-members are impressed with the scope of the program and the kind of materials and helps available to them."

"Helped Home Demonstration clubs to take stock of themselves--evidence of desire to progress."

"Gives well deserved recognition to women who have served as yolunteer leaders."

"People in local areas are impressed by the exhibits and by Home Demonstration families going to church in a body."

Many of the values are summed up in the comment of a Pennsylvania local leader as she read one of the releases describing Home Demonstration work throughout the United States: "Why, more than three and a half million women are learning not only how to be better housekeepers, but how to be better homemakers. Think what this means to our nation!"

REPORT OF

NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK - 1949

NORTHEASTERN STATES

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**State President of H.D. Council on radio

2. County-wide Events

Home Demonstration Week - 1949

Northeastern States

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^{1/} One story from State office to 189 newspapers in State, 3 fill-in stories, 2 pp. of filler routed through home agents.

No clipping service so no count of papers using stories.

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